

Atty. Docket No. 420229

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments and remarks hereto attend to all outstanding issues in the pending office action of 10 January 2006. Claims 1-21 and 23-41 remain pending in this application. Claims 19 and 27-30 were previously withdrawn, as per the Amendment and Response filed 23 November 2004. Claims 31-41 are withdrawn herewith without prejudice.

Response to Office Action

The following paragraphs follow the order of the paragraphs in the Office Action mailed 10 January 2006 in this application.

1. Response to Amendment

The Examiner remarks that "Applicant's arguments filed on October 17, 2005 have been fully considered but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection." Office Action, page 2. However, no new grounds of rejection are included in the current Office Action. A phone call was placed to the Examiner on 19 January 2005 to clarify the meaning of the above-quoted statement; a recording indicated the Examiner would be absent from the Office for an extended period of time. A phone call was subsequently placed to the Examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu, who clarified that the current claim set is not under rejection.

It is also noted that the Examiner has not rebutted any of the arguments submitted with the Amendment and Response filed on 17 October 2005. Because of this, and the fact that none of the rejections from the Office Action of 17 June 2005 are repeated in the current Office Action, Applicants believe that the Examiner has found each of the amendments and arguments submitted with the Amendment and Response filed on October 17 2005 to be persuasive. This note is accordingly provided to clarify the record of the application, and the Examiner is invited to comment if there is any dispute of the clarification provided by Applicants.

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2. - 5. Election/Restrictions

The Examiner indicates a requirement for restriction to one of the following inventions:

Invention I, including claims 1-18, 20-21, 23 and 24.

Invention II, including claims 31-34.

Invention III, including claims 35-41.

Applicants note that the Examiner has not included pending claims 25 and 26 (which depend from claim 24) in any of the invention groups noted above, and we suggest that the Examiner inadvertently omitted claims 25 and 26 from the Invention I claim list. We accordingly submit that Invention I properly includes all of claims 1-18, 20-21 and 23 26, and the Examiner is invited to comment if there is any dispute of this grouping of claims for restriction purposes.

Applicants elect Invention I without traverse. Claims 31-41 are accordingly withdrawn herewith without prejudice, and may be pursued in a continuation or divisional application.

Conclusion

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicants have addressed all issues raised in the Office Action dated 10 January 2006, and respectfully solicit a Notice of Allowance. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

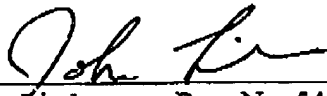
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Applicants believe no fees are currently due, however, if any fee is deemed necessary in connection with this Amendment and Response, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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